143

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 1. Enver Hoxha left Tirana for Moscow on 18 August 1955 after personally locking and sealing his office. He informed Mehmet Shehu that he was leaving for Durres to board a Soviet ship at the moment of his departure. Hoxha's sudden flight resulted from his decision to carry out Soviet instructions for a rapprochement with Yugoslavia, despite Shehu's opposition. In reprisal, Shehu removed Hoxha's wife from the Presidency of the Union of Albanian Women, and withdrew Hoxha's personal automobile and bodyguard. Shehu then placed the army and security forces on a war footing and concentrated troops in the Yugoslav border areas.
- 2. Shehu next ordered the highest Party and government leaders to participate in a "referendum" requiring a yes or no answer to the question are you for or against the renewal of the mutual friendship and assistance pact signed by Hoxha in Belgrade 10 June 1946? The referendum resulted in 58 "no" and 4 "yes" votes. Shehu will inform Moscow that "The Albanian government, Party, and people reaffirm their devotion and gratitude to the U.S.S.R., but refuse to contract any obligation with Yugoslavia which might jeopardize the integrity, independence and sovereignty of the country and its political institutions as guaranteed by the Soviet CP (sic) and Warsaw Pact countries."

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3. On 1 September a high Soviet personality arrived in Albania, ostensibly to attend the Third Congress of the Albanian Women's Union, but actually acting as an envoy from Moscow to deal with the situation leading to Hoxha's flight. The following points were made to Shehu:

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- a. The U.S.S.R. intends to settle the Hoxha-Shehu struggle which is affecting the Albanian internal situation, the CP (Albanian Worker's Party), and Soviet-Albanian foreign policy at a time when harmony is paramount.
- b. Obviously either Shehu or Hoxha must be replaced. In view of the stand taken by the majority of government and Party leaders, Shehu will take over the Party leadership and be replaced as premier by General Kadri Hazbiu. The government will be reshuffled to justify government and Party leadership changes internally and abroad.
- c. The Soviets demand respect for Hoxka's position. He will return to Albania in a few days.
- 4. Shehu replied that government and Party changes are the exclusive right of the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee and that he will remain at his post as long as he has the confidence of the Assembly, the Central Committee, and the people." "Hexha whom mobody wishes to assassinate or idolize does not have such support."
- 5. On 3 September Hoxha returned to Tirana with two Soviet generals. He was not met by Shehu. Hexha was informed Shehu would not receive him without two days advance motice and was searched before being allowed to exter his own office. He was also assigned more modest living quarters.
- 6. Shehu's plans, subject to Soviet approval, are to name Hoxha Minister of Agriculture as a sop to the Soviets, but he anticipates blaming Hoxha for the disasterous agricultural situation. Shehu also plans to drop the pro-Tito Beqir Balloku; and name Rita Marko to the Party Secretariat.

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